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Colonel FITZROY's  
L E T T E R

CONSIDERED,

IN A

L E T T E R

To the Right Honourable

The Earl of \* \* \* \* \*

To which is annex'd,

By Way of POSTSCRIPT,

A Reply to the Appendix of the farther Animadversions on the Conduct of a late noble Commander.

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“ If a brave Man suffers in his Character, the  
“ Loss is *his own*: But if he is obliged to  
“ quit the Service, the Loss is the Public's;  
“ and his Case becomes Matter of public  
“ Consideration.”

REMEMB.

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THE SECOND EDITION.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for W. OWEN, at *Temple-Bar*.

(Price Six-pence.)

Colonel FITZROY  
LETTER

CONSIDERED  
IN A  
LETTER

To the Right Honourable

The Earl of

to which is added

By Way of Postscript

A History of the

and a Description of the

Country

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Colonel *FITZROY*'s  
L E T T E R  
C O N S I D E R E D, &c.

M Y L O R D,

I N the Letter which your Lord-  
ship last honoured me with, you  
was pleased to express a desire  
of knowing my Sentiments, of the Letter  
published under the Name of Colonel  
*Fitzroy*, to Lord *George Sackville*; and  
also what my Opinion was of the  
Authenticity of it: As your Lordship's  
Desires are Commands to me, which I  
always obey with Pleasure, I have accord-  
ingly considered that Letter with all the  
Attention I was Master of, and sent your  
Lordship my Thoughts thereon.

A

YOUR



YOUR Lordship's Reasons for doubting the Authenticity of that Letter, are certainly very strong; for it does appear to me, and must so to every impartial Person as well as your Lordship; to be throughout the whole, rather a Charge against my Lord George, than a Reply to his Letter; rather an Accusation of him than an Answer to him.

BUT to set my Sentiments on this Letter in the clearest Light before your Lordship, I will recite it, Paragraph by Paragraph, and make my Observations thereon, as I proceed therein.

THE Writer of the Letter begins thus.  
 " His Serene Highness, upon some Report made to him by the Duke of Richmond, of the Situation of the Enemy, sent Captain Ligonier and myself with Orders for the British Cavalry to advance." Your Lordship will here observe, that Colonel Fitzroy says, or is made to say, that he brought the same Orders with  
 Captain



Captain *Ligonier*, for the *British* Cavalry to advance: But this is positively contradicted by my Lord *George*, who asserts, that Captain *Ligonier*, brought him Orders to advance with the whole Cavalry under his Command; and my Lord *George's* Assertion is corroborated by the Declaration of Captain *Smith*, who says, " that he heard my Lord *George* say on his receiving the Orders from Colonel *Fitzroy*, that as they differed from those he had just before received by Captain *Ligonier*, he would speak to the Prince himself; and accordingly put his Horse in a Gallop, to go to him." And what my Lord *George* asserts, and Captain *Smith* declares, is further greatly confirmed by the Orders, which my Lord *George* received from the Prince in Person, which were to leave some Squadrons on the Right, and to advance with all the rest of that Wing. So that it appears to me, and I believe will so to your Lordship, that the Writer of this Letter, who to be sure therefore, cannot be Colonel *Fitzroy*, hath  
 set

set out by affirming a Falshood. After such a Specimen of the Writer's Veracity at the Beginning of his Letter, and in so material a Point, your Lordship will not, I presume, lay any great Stress upon, or pay much Regard to, what shall follow in it, nor indeed, will what follows deserve it. The Letter Writer thus goes on, "His Serene Highness, at this Instant, was one or two Brigades beyond the *English* Infantry, towards the Left.—Upon my Arrival on the Right of the Cavalry, I found Captain *Ligonier* with your Lordship.—Notwithstanding, I declared His Serene Highness's Orders to you. Upon which you desired I would not be in a Hurry; I made an Answer that Galloping had put me out of Breath, which made me speak very quick: I then repeated the Orders for the *British* Cavalry to advance towards the Left, and at the same Time mentioning the Circumstance that occasioned the Orders, added that it was a glorious Opportunity for the *English* to distinguish themselves, and that

that your Lordship by leading them on, would gain immortal Honour."

Now, it cannot escape your Lordship's Notice, how very exact and circumstantial the Colonel seems here to be, in relating the most trivial Matters, that passed between him and Lord George; such as desiring him not to be in a Hurry, and his answering that Galloping had put him out of Breath, and yet, at the same Time, how remiss and deficient in not relating the greatest, such as the Circumstance, which he says occasioned the Orders, and afforded such a glorious Opportunity for the *English* to distinguish themselves, and his Lordship to gain immortal Honour: And would not your Lordship, by the aforesaid extraordinary Oration of the Colonel to my Lord George, imagine he had brought him Orders to Attack the Enemy immediately? And yet, your Lordship will find that the Orders he brought, afforded no such glorious Opportunity, and therefore  
such



such Gallant Speech was, if really made, absurd and ridiculous; for the Orders were to advance the Cavalry to such a Spot of Ground, and to stand there in support of the Infantry, but not to pass before the Line and Attack the Enemy.

THE Letter Writer then goes on, " You yet expressed your surprise at the Order, saying, it was impossible, the Duke could mean to break the Line.—— my Answer was, that I delivered his Serene Highness's Orders, Word for Word, as he gave them.—— Upon which you asked, which way the Cavalry was to March, and who was to be their Guide. — I undertook to lead them towards the Left, round the little Wood on their Left, as they were then drawn up, where they might be little exposed to the Enemy's Cannonade.—— Your Lordship continued to think my Orders neither clear nor exactly delivered; and expressing your Desire to see Prince *Ferdinand*, ordered me to lead you to him; which Order I was obeying, *when*

*we*

*we met His Serene Highness.*" Now, your Lordship will here observe, that Colonel *Fitzroy* takes no Manner of Notice of the different Orders, which my Lord *George* had told him, he had just before received by Captain *Ligonier*; and which were the Reason for his thinking, that he, Colonel *Fitzroy*; had not delivered his Orders clear and exact, and also for his Desire of seeing Prince *Ferdinand*; and which, Colonel *Fitzroy* could never have omitted to take Notice of, it being the sole Cause of his Lordship's doubting the Orders he brought, and of desiring to have an Explanation of them from the Prince himself, but by Design and with Intention of throwing a Censure upon his Lordship; as if he had declined obeying the clear and express Orders of the Prince: Your Lordship will also be pleased to take particular Notice of those Words of that Letter, last mentioned, (*viz.*) "which Orders I was obeying, when we met His Highness,"

B

Because

Because in the latter Part of this Letter, there appears to me to be a direct contradiction to it. The Colonel then says, "During this Time, I did not see the Cavalry advance." During what Time, does Colonel *Fitzroy* mean? does he mean, while he was leading my Lord *George* to the Prince; if he does, how could he, whilst he was galloping to the Left, see, without having Eyes behind, what was done in the Right?

He then goes on and says, "Captain *Smith*, one of your Aids de Camps, once or twice made me repeat the Orders, I had before delivered to your Lordship, and I hope he will do me the Justice to say, they were clear and exact.—— He went up to you, whilst we were going to find the Duke, as I imagined, being sensible of the Clearness of my Orders, and the Necessity of their being immediately obey'd.——I heard your Lordship give him some Orders——  
what



what they were I cannot say—but he immediately rode back towards the Cavalry.” Here your Lordship will again plainly perceive, the Partiality, nay indeed, the Enmity of Colonel *Fitzroy* against my Lord *George*, and how very ready he is to imagine any thing, that will make against him, but nothing that shall be in Favour of him; for he imagines, that Capt. *Smith*, being sensible of the Clearness of his Orders, and the Necessity of their being immediately obey’d, came to tell his Lordship so; but he *will not* imagine, that my Lord *George* gave Orders for the Cavalry to advance, whilst he went to speak with the Prince, tho’ he owns, he heard him give Capt. *Smith* some Orders, and saw the Captain ride immediately back towards the Cavalry.

AND here, with your Lordship’s Permission, I will make a small Digression, just to give a Specimen of the Truth and Candour of some Pamphlets, that have

lately been published, and the base Methods, that have been taken to misrepresent his Lordship's Conduct, and *impose upon the Public.*

IN Relation to the Orders, which Col. *Fitzroy* brought, Capt. *Smith* in his Declaration says, " I immediately went up to Col. *Fitzroy*, and made him repeat the Orders to me twice.—I thought it so clear and positive for the *British* Cavalry *only* to advance, where he should lead, that I took the Liberty to say to his Lordship, I did think they were so; and offer'd to go and fetch them, while he went to the Prince, that no Time might be lost.—His Answer was, he had an Order from the Prince by Mr. *Ligonier*, for the *whole* Cavalry to come away, and he thought it impossible the Prince could mean *That.*" The Word, *That*, does here plainly refer to Col. *Fitzroy's* Orders, or else it would be no Answer to Captain *Smith*; nor any kind of Reason for not agreeing

agreeing with his Advice : The clear and manifest Meaning of his Lordship's Answer is, that he thought it impossible the Prince could mean, that the *British* Cavalry only should advance, because he had Orders from him by Captain *Ligonier* for the whole Wing to come away. The meaning of the Answer is indeed so plain and obvious, that no Man of common Sense could misunderstand it; and yet, the Writer of a Pamphlet, (called a Letter to a late Noble Commander of the *British* Forces in *Germany*,) who hath apparently a better Head than Heart, hath construed the Word, *That*, in his Lordship's Answer to Captain *Smith*, to refer to Mr. *Ligonier*'s Orders for bringing the whole Cavalry away; and then, upon that false, absurd, and malevolent Construction, proceeds to say, "The Difference between the two Orders, does not appear to have been the real Grounds of your Perplexity: for



for it is evident, that you express'd your Sense of the Impossibility of the Prince's meaning what was expressed by either of the Orders. You objected to both, and effectually obeyed neither. To Colonel *Fitzroy's* Orders, you objected, it was impossible the Prince could mean to break the Line.—To Captain *Legonier's* your Objection was, that it was impossible His Highness could mean, that the whole Wing should come away.—if you could not think it possible, that either the whole, or a Part were intended to advance, it is no wonder, that you was inclined to keep them all back." Now, I will appeal to your Lordship, whether a Writer, who shall thus pervert the plain Sense and meaning of Words, contrary to the Conviction of his own Mind, as this Pamphleteer hath apparently done, in order to asperse the Character and blacken the Conduct of a Nobleman, and impose upon the Judgment of the Public, is not a more dishonest Man, and guilty of

of a greater Crime, than he, who robs upon the Highway? But to return to the remaining Part of Colonel *Fitzroy's* Letter, who says, " upon my joining the Duke, I repeated to him the Orders, I had delivered to you, and appealing to his Serene Highness, to know whether they were the same he had honoured me with, I had the Satisfaction to hear him declare they were very exact — His Serene Highness immediately asked, were the Cavalry was; and upon my making Answer, that Lord *George* did not understand the Order, but was coming to speak to his Serene Highness, he expressed his Surprize strongly." Your Lordship will here remark that Colonel *Fitzroy*, on his joining the Duke, repeated the Orders to him, which he had delivered to my Lord *George*, and appealed to the Prince, to know whether they were not the same he had honoured him with, and that on His Serene Highness's asking him, where  
the

the Cavalry was, he made Answer, that Lord *George* did not understand the Order: Now I will submit it to your Lordship, whether Colonel *Fitzroy's* telling the Prince that my Lord *George* did not understand the Order, without telling him the Reason why, was a fair and generous Manner of proceeding? or whether any Aid de Camp of common Sense and common Candour, would not, instead of saying, that my Lord *George* did not understand the Order, have said, that my Lord *George* had told him he had received different Orders by Captain *Ligonier*, and have asked the Prince, whether he had sent any such? Your Lordship will now be pleased to remember, that Colonel *Fitzroy*, in the former Part of his Letter, said, "which Order I was obeying, when we met His Highness;" and take Notice, that he here says, "he met the Prince without my Lord *George*, and held a considerable Conference with him, and told him my Lord *George* was coming to

speak



“speak to him ;” how can this be reconciled? by the former Part, we are to understand, that my Lord *George* and he met the Prince together ; by the Latter, that he met the Prince alone : Does not this, my Lord, appear to be a manifest Contradiction ?

UPON the whole, therefore, my Lord, the Letter appears to me, from the apparent Falshood, Enmity, and Contradiction therein, not to be Authentic ; but if nevertheless, it should be so, your Lordship will, I presume, agree with me, that it deserves no more Credit or Regard, than that mercenary Tool, the Writer of the aforementioned Pamphlet, or the infamous *Grub-Street* Scurrillities bellowed about the Streets.

*I am,*

*My Lord, &c. &c.*

P O S T-



## P O S T S C R I P T.

THE Writer of the Letters to a late noble Commander, blamed, and justly blamed by me, in the foregoing Considerations, for perverting the plain Sense and Meaning of Words, contrary to the Conviction of his own Mind, having, in his Appendix to his farther Animadversions on that Nobleman's Conduct, endeavoured to clear himself from such Charge, and to justify the Construction he put upon that Passage in Captain *Smith's* Declaration, I shall, for the Sake of Truth, and to set that Writer's pretended Candour in its proper Light, again consider those Words, and the Reasons he hath given for putting such malevolent Construction upon them.

Captain *Smith*, in his Declaration, says,  
 " I immediately went up to Colonel *Fitzroy*,  
 " and made him repeat the Orders to me  
 " twice. I thought it so clear and positive,  
 " for the *British* Cavalry only to advance,

"where he should lead, that I took the Li-  
 "berty to say to his Lordship, I did think  
 "they were so, and offered to go, and fetch  
 "them, while he went to the Prince, that  
 "no Time might be lost. — His Lordship's  
 "Answer was, he had also an Order from  
 "the Prince by Mr. *Ligonier*, for the whole  
 "Cavalry to come away, and he thought it  
 "impossible the Prince could mean *that*."  
 Now, the Word *That*, in his Lordship's An-  
 swer, must refer to Colonel *Fitzroy's* Orders,  
 or it would be no Sort of Answer to what Cap-  
 tain *Smith* had said, or any Kind of Objection  
 to what he had proposed, the clear Meaning of  
 his Lordship's Answer is, as I before said,  
 that he thought it impossible the Prince could  
 mean, that the *British* Cavalry only should  
 advance, because he had Orders from him by  
 Mr. *Ligonier*, for the whole Wing to come  
 away. And if you do but place the latter  
 Part of his Lordship's Answer first, and in  
 which Manner it was most probably spoken,  
 there will not be any Room for Misconstruc-  
 tion, or the least Doubt of its true Meaning.

His



His Lordship's Reply to Captain *Smith* will then stand thus. He thought it impossible the Prince could mean that, as he had an Order also from him by Mr. *Ligonier*, for the whole Wing to come away. That this is the plain Meaning of his Lordship's Answer, every Man of common Sense must perceive, and common Candour own, and yet this Writer, with Intention to injure the Character of that Nobleman, and perswade the Public, that he was equally against obeying either of the Orders, and unwilling to advance either a Part or the whole of the Cavalry, still contends, that the Word *That* refers to Mr. *Ligonier*'s Orders ; tho' he confesses, that his Lordship's Answer to Captain *Smith*, is not, according to that Construction, so pertinent, as in the others. But he chuses to draw such Construction from Captain *Smith*'s Reply, which, he says, would not otherwise be Sense ; tho' by so doing, he deprives his Lordship's Answer of it. And yet the Truth is, no such Construction can be fairly drawn from Captain *Smith*'s Reply, which was, " That if he would allow " me to fetch the *British*, they were but a  
 " Part,

“Part, and if that was wrong, they could soon remedy the Fault.” Now, where is the great Absurdity which this Writer talks of in this Reply of Captain *Smith*’s? His Lordship said, that he thought it impossible the Prince could mean, that the *British* Cavalry only should advance, because he had an Order from him by Mr. *Ligonier* for the whole Wing to come away; to which Captain *Smith* replied, that the *British* were indeed but a Part, but if he would allow him to fetch them, it might, if wrong, be soon remedied.

This, without any forced Construction, appears to be the true Sense and Meaning of his Lordship’s Answer, and Captain *Smith*’s Reply; but if I should admit, what neither Truth nor common Sense required to be admitted, and agree so far with that Writer, that there was a Doubt, which of the two Orders the Word *That*, referred to, even then, what Opinion must the Public entertain of that Man, who, after solemnly declaring, he was moved by no personal Animosity, heated by no Party, instigated by no Faction, and appealing to Heaven for the Sincerity of his Heart, could yet

yet fix upon the worst Sense of a doubtful Word, and draw all the malicious Inferences from it, that the most malevolent Heart could suggest? Must they not conclude, that all his Professions of Candour and Integrity were only Baits to allure their Belief, to impose upon their Judgment, and wound more effectually the Character of a much-injured Nobleman? And must they not now clearly discern, that he was moved to write his false and malicious Pamphlets, either through the detestable Malevolence of his own Heart, or a servile Obedience to the Orders of others?

**F I N I S,**





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